Application No.   09/700,474   MAT-8048US
Amendment Dated: April 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: February 14, 2005

Remarks/Arguments:

Claim 1 has been objected to because of a consistency problem relating to the word "continuous." The claim has been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 5 has been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Official Action stated:

> ... the specification does not enable one skilled in the art to reserve partition information areas that includes information which indicates whether a respective partition exists on the removable media without the media loading and partition checking steps."

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to recite that indicating whether a respective partition exists is performed after the removable is inserted in the removable device. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 has been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant's invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record:

> ... storing a maximum number of partitions that can be allocated in said removable media ...
>
> reserving, within an internal work area of said operating system, areas corresponding to said maximum number of partitions ...
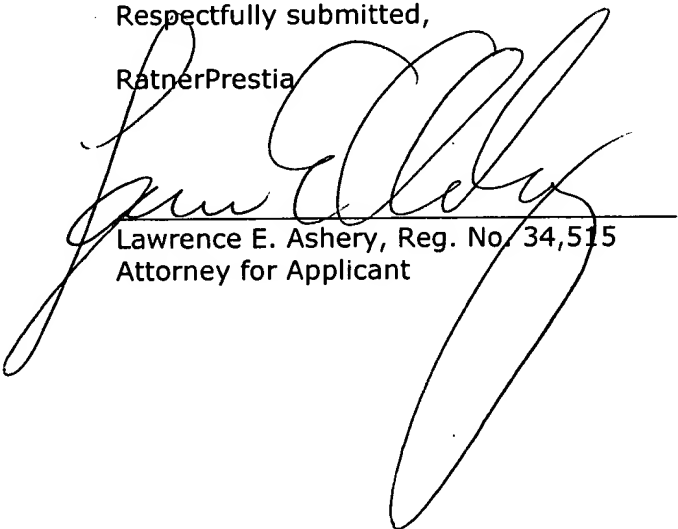
The Official Action indicates that the above "reserving feature" is disclosed in Microsoft at page 648 where it is explained that "fdisk command is used to create, delete, set active partition, and display partition information." The Official Action, however, has mischaracterized the fdisk utility. Page 648 of Microsoft indicates that fdisk is an emergency startup disk which is used to configure a hard disk. A hard disk is not a removable media. Applicant's claim 1, however, is very clearly directed to a removable media. Accordingly, the objection is improper and should be withdrawn.

The remaining claims are all patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable claim 1.

In view of the amendments and argument set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

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